

REPORT/RECOMMENDATION TO THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
OF SAN BERNARDINO COUNTY, CALIFORNIA
AND RECORD OF ACTION

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February 25, 2003

FROM: LINDA HAUGAN, Director
Transitional Assistance Department

SUBJECT: REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL TO PROVIDE DOMESTIC ABUSE SERVICES

RECOMMENDATION: Approve Request for Proposal to procure domestic abuse services to applicants and recipients of the County's California Work Opportunity and Responsibility to Kids program and authorize the Transitional Assistance Department to release the Request for Proposal.

BACKGROUND: On January 1, 1998, California's welfare reform bill of 1997, Assembly Bill 1542, enacted the California Work Opportunity and Responsibility to Kids (CalWORKs) program which replaced the Aid to Families with Dependent Children program for the State of California. The CalWORKs program brings the State's welfare system into compliance with the provisions of the federal welfare reform legislation known as the Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunity Act, which was signed into law on August 22, 1996.

The CalWORKs legislation includes a provision to provide services to domestic abuse victims. The legislation recognized that victims of domestic abuse face issues that may be real barriers to becoming employed and living a life of self-sufficiency. The objective is to identify CalWORKs applicants and recipients who are past or present victims of domestic abuse and assist them in obtaining unsubsidized employment and move towards self-sufficiency without placing them at risk of additional abuse.

Some of the services provided under the domestic abuse program are a 24-hour crisis hotline, group meetings to discuss issues and concerns with others who are experiencing the same problems, temporary shelter for those who need to immediately vacate their homes for safety reasons, and outreach services which would include domestic abuse awareness, education and life skills classes.

On January 31, 2001, the San Bernardino County Board of Supervisors approved a Request for Proposal (RFP) for domestic abuse services for the CalWORKs program. A total of nine contracts were awarded in the amount of \$1,977,611 for Fiscal Year 2001/2002 and \$1,966,982 for Fiscal Year 2002/2003. The amount of funds available in Fiscal Year 2003/2004 will be reduced to \$917,000. The reduction of over \$1 million dollars for these proposed services for FY 2003/2004 is a result of the elimination of incentive funds and anticipated future budget reductions imposed by the State. Because of the severe budget cutbacks and the change in scope of services, a new procurement is necessary to obtain the required services. Elimination of key outreach, teen prevention, legal assistance and self-sufficiency services are some of the changes to the scope of services.

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Approval of this RFP will allow the County's Transitional Assistance Department to formally advertise the County's desire to solicit proposals from qualified agencies to provide domestic abuse services to CalWORKs applicants and recipients for FY 2003/2004. The County intends to advertise the RFP through internet posting (County of San Bernardino web site), area newspapers and direct mailings.

Contract(s) resulting from this procurement will be awarded, upon Board approval, for a one-year period beginning July 1, 2003 through June 30, 2004. The total dollar amount to be awarded, among all successful proposers, is not anticipated to exceed \$917,000.

REVIEW BY OTHERS: The RFP has been reviewed and approved by HSS Contract Compliance Designee (Lori Ciabattini, Administrative Supervisor) on 02/06/03 and County Counsel (Regina Coleman, Deputy County Counsel) on 02/12/03. This item has also been reviewed by HSS Finance (Kris Letterman, Administrative Manager) on 02/12/03 and by the County Administrative Office (Gary Morris, Administrative Analyst) on 02/13/03.

FINANCIAL IMPACT: Contracts for the proposed services will not exceed \$917,000 and will be included in the proposed FY 2003/2004 budget. After the maintenance-of-effort share of cost required by the State CalWORKs program is met, this program is 100% State and Federally funded and will be included in the HSS Administrative Budget. No additional local cost is required for this program.

COST REDUCTION REVIEW: The County Administrative Office has reviewed this agenda item and concurs with the department's proposal and recommends this action based on the proposed services being a mandated function and critical for the health, welfare and safety of victims of domestic abuse. This program will serve several hundred women and children throughout the County.

SUPERVISORIAL DISTRICTS: All

PRESENTER: Linda Haugan, Director, Transitional Assistance Department, (909) 388-0236

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